

what is in the legislation. They can not just go online, but the news accounts, television shows, and trade publications. In fact, yesterday, in the Wall Street Journal it was outlined again.

There are some sticking points yet to be resolved, as those are being debated, they're public knowledge. People know about the public option, options.

Indeed, the notion that somehow we could keep a secret in our little Capitol Hill village of 5,000 compulsive leakers is laughable. Everybody knows that to be the case. If Republicans were still confused or couldn't figure it out themselves they could have just listened to some of their colleagues who were talking about how they disagreed with what was in the bill. They should talk to each other.

THE BRIDGE LOAN TO NOWHERE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, last December Treasury lent General Motors \$13 billion, another \$6 billion last spring, and in June, just days before GM declared bankruptcy, the White House gave another \$30 billion, just in time to convert taxpayer loans into government ownership.

That's \$49 billion given to GM, and taxpayers now own 61 percent of the company.

Last Wednesday, ex-car czar Steve Rattner estimated that the taxpayers' stake in GM has lost \$25 billion, a nearly 50 percent loss. While sales of the privately owned Ford Motors fell only 6 percent, the government-owned GM saw a 45 percent decline.

How much should taxpayers expect to lose from the "Bridge Loan to Nowhere"?

Despite pledges of transparency, the "Bridge Loan to Nowhere" comes with none. American taxpayers are in the dark about the basic details of \$49 billion given to GM.

Congress, and the American people, should see the financial and operating information for GM. Taxpayers should be treated like shareholders of any other major company.

HEALTH REFORM IS GOOD FOR SENIORS

(Ms. SCHWARTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Central to finding a uniquely American solution to our Nation's health care challenges is a focus on strengthening Medicare for our Nation's seniors.

Our health care reform efforts renew our commitment to the health and security of America's seniors by ensuring the long-term fiscal health of Medicare and improving the quality of care for our seniors. The House bill adds valuable new benefits for our seniors and improves access to primary care.

I strongly advocated for ending the copayment that seniors pay for preventive services. Right now seniors pay up to 20 percent of the cost of services such as mammograms, colonoscopies, and vaccines. As of January 1, 2011, seniors will no longer have to pay the copay for preventive services. This is a major win for America's seniors.

Health care reform also sets us on a path to close the coverage gap in the Medicare part D prescription drug plan known as the "doughnut hole." In 2011, Medicare will pay \$500 more and will continue to add benefits until we eliminate this gap in coverage for drug services.

Health care reform is a win for seniors. Now is the time to act.

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HEALTH CARE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a doctor for over 30 years, I have become a pretty good judge of truth telling. We have heard Democratic leadership try to convince us that ObamaCare is going to pass, and with a "robust" public option.

It has become obvious there are not enough votes in Congress, and suddenly, the terms are changing. Within a few days, a whole new vernacular has emerged to describe the public option. This includes the opt-in and the opt-out option; the trigger—no offense to Roy Rogers' horse; the competitive option; and finally, the consumer option. Mr. Speaker, this is not a marketing problem; it is an idea problem.

To my Democrat colleagues, let me suggest a frequently spoken idiom: if you put lipstick on porcine, it is still porcine. Or if you prefer a Louisiana colloquialism: this dog won't hunt.

This bill will add 750 billion real dollars to the deficit, not to mention taxes and higher premiums on the middle class, all while covering relatively few more Americans. Fortunately, there are enough Democrats in both Houses who see past this sham and fear their voters more than their leadership, as they well should.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, Democratic leadership is committed to making any health care reform bill available to the public for at least 72 hours before a floor vote, and I am glad they have because the American people deserve a chance to see what we are doing.

But, there is one group that has made it clear that they don't need 72 hours to decide where they stand on health care, and it is our Republican colleagues. We could give them 72 days,

and they would still know that they are going to say "no" no matter what is in that bill. They don't need time to read our bill to know they are against giving affordable, quality health care to every American.

The truth is that the Republicans haven't given us one minute to read their bill. You know why? They don't have a bill. It has been 133 days since Republican leadership promised a bill from their side, and all we hear is "no." And now some members of the party, their party, are giving us ideas like privatizing Medicare and increased subsidies to insurance companies.

Mr. Speaker, the American people know it is time for reform, and it is time the Members of this House stand up for them and give the American people the health care they deserve.

IRANIAN TRIALS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, last week the Iranian Government handed down death sentences to three activists who protested this year's stolen election in Iran. There are at least 140 other demonstrators who will be subject to these sham trials, and unfortunately, there may be more executions as the regime seeks to restore their iron rule.

The charges were phony, the trials were held in secret, the outcome rigged, and now the Iranian Government is only identifying condemned men by their initials. The Iranian Government is clearly on shaky footing; and according to some reports, they imported Hezbollah and Hamas radicals who wore face masks and who couldn't speak Farsi to harass and beat the demonstrators.

Unfortunately, we continue to negotiate with this brutal regime, legitimizing their autocratic rule, even though they are so weak they must resort to hiring brutal thugs from other nations.

The President should act swiftly, without regard to Russian objections to institute international sanctions that will support freedom for the Iranian people and undermine the vicious rulers who persecute them.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, at the end of President Bush's term, this House was faced with a TARP bill. The American public likes bipartisanship, and we had bipartisanship on that bill. There were Democrats and Republicans who voted "no," but there were Democrats and Republicans who voted "yes." Just about everyone agrees that bill saved us from going over the abyss into a Great Depression similar to 1933. It was a moment of bipartisanship and a moment I was proud to participate in.